

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 are pending. Claims 7-15 are withdrawn. Claim 1 has been cancelled. Claims 2 and 6 have been amended. Claim 2 is independent.

Claims 1 and 6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by "A New Branch Metric Generation Method for Soft-Decision Viterbi Decoding In Coded OFDM-SDM Systems Employing MLD Over Frequency Selective MIMO Channels," IEICE Transactions On Fundamentals Of Electronics, Communications And Computer, Institute Of Electronics Information And Communication Engineering, Tokyo, Japan, volume 7, No. E85-A, July 2002, pages 1675-1684, XP00114147 (Hori).

Claims 2-5 are objected to but deemed otherwise allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

By this Amendment, claim 2 has been rewritten in independent form. Each of claims 3-5, and amended claim 6, depend from claim 2. Applicants make this amendment to expedite prosecution, and do not concede the correctness of the rejections in the Office Action.

Accordingly, applicants respectfully submit that claims 2-6 are in condition for allowance and request withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) to those claims.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the currently-pending claims are in condition for allowance and favorable consideration is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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